Remarks/Arguments

In the present application, whenever a document is going to be included into the textual database, a semantic binder is automatically added off line to associate the document with one or more semantic nodes which are defined in a semantic taxonomy. When a search is performed, a search application looks through a semantic dictionary (which contains a table mapping queries to nodes on the semantic taxonomy) to see whether any corresponding semantic node can be applied to the searchers query. If a match is found, the search application automatically transforms the user's query into ("original query" OR "semantic node") without user intervention so that relevant documents, even they do not contain keywords in user's queries, can also be found in the database. The system binds semantic nodes arranged in a hierarchical structure of the taxonomy using a Log Analyzer which periodically looks through the system log for new queries and through textual indices for documents added to the database to generate the semantic dictionary and to bind the semantic nodes to the queries in the textual indices of the documents.

Claim Rejections under 35 USC 102

Claims 1 to 16 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Omoigue (USPAP 2003/0126136).

As pointed out above, the present application describes a search system that automatically attaches a semantic node to a users original query so that relevant

documents can be found in a database even though they do not contain keywords in users queries. From applicants' attorneys reading, automatic modification of users queries is not taught in paragraphs 510 and 1212 of the Omoigui reference cited against claims 1 and 9 as teaching use of enhanced queries. Paragraph 510 deals with publishing and sharing. There is nothing about automatically modifying a users query to expand a search in that section. Paragraph 1212 specifically calls for user participation. It talks about "drag and drop", "copy and paste". It also calls for user navigation to new links once the user reaches a node in the network.

With respect to claims 2 and 10, paragraph 466 specifically calls for user participation. It calls for a user to select an object to "link to" and in linking to, "browsing and modifying and add or remove" and AND or "an OR".

With respect to claims 4, 5, 12 and 13, the Examiner cites paragraph 1319. Paragraph 1319 deals with "agents". Agents are defined terms. The addition of an agent does not necessarily increase the terms in a semantic dictionary as claimed in claims 4 and 12, nor rank results as claimed in claims 5 and 13. Therefore what is recited in claims 4, 5, 12 and 13 is not taught by paragraph 1319 no where in its teaching.
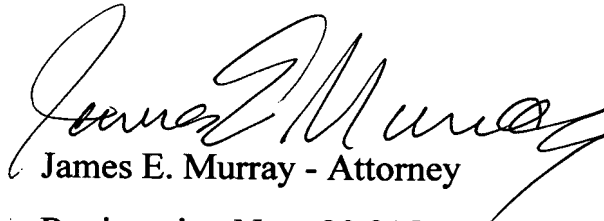
For the reasons given above, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 9, 10, 12 and 13 all distinguish from the prior art. The other dependent claims depend from either claims 1 and 2 or 9 and 10 and therefore distinguish over the prior art for the same reasons as those claims. They also contain further limitations that distinguish them from the prior art.

Objections to the Specification

The objection the Examiner has to the specification as not disclosing the type of medium used to store computer programs is equivalent to stating that a specification in an application calling for a car with tires is deficient because it does specify the type of tires recited in the claims covering the car. Both the type of tires used on automobiles and the materials used to store computer programs are well known in the prior art. Whether the tires are radials or 4 ply, or the storage medium magnetic or optical is not the subject matter of either application.

For the above reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are allowable, and therefore it is requested that the application be reconsidered, allowed and passed to issue.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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